Setting of coal plants in Gujarat

612. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal plants set up in Kutechha District of Gujarat and how many of them are in pipeline;

(b) the expected investment in the above plants;

(c) whether there is any protest made by environmentalists in setting up of nearly 40 coal plants; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANARAO): (a) Government owned coal companies have not set up any coal plant in the state of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Expansion of coal industry

†613. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has given some suggestions for expansion of the coal industry as per the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken by Government to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has suggested some critical initiatives for the development of coal sector which, *inter alia,* include the following:

(i) Expedite passing of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 which would permit private sector in non-captive mining in order to augment domestic coal production for meeting the rising coal demand..

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.